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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2005

UNCLAS MEXICO 11299

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO: GREEN, STEPHEN PRICE

REF: STATE 194199

- 1. CONSULAR ACCESS: IN STARK MATERIAL, GREEN INDICATED THAT HE WISHED TO CALL EMBASSY AT TIME OF ARREST, FEBRUARY 27, 1974, BUT WAS NOT PERMITTED TO DO SO. EMBASSY LEARNED OF ARREST THROUGH PRESS, SENT LIST OF ATTORNEYS AND INFO SHEET MARCH 4. FIRST CONSULAR VISIT MARCH 18.
- 2. CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY: AT INITIAL CONSULAR INTERVIEW, GREEN REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RETURN OF PERSONAL EFFECTS, INCLUDING ONE CONTACT LENS. CONOFF SPOKE TO ATTORNEY ABOUT THIS MATTER IN APRIL, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1974. EFFECTS FINALLY RETURNED FEBRUARY 1975, INCLUDING LENS. EMBASSY MORE RECENTLY HAS HAD GREATER SUCCESS IN OBTAINING RETURN OF PERSONAL EFFECTS OF PRISONERS THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT WITH JUDGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES, BUT THIS CONTINUES TO BE PROBLEM.
- 3. MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST: IN STARK MATERIAL, GREEN ALLEGES THAT HE WAS BEATEN AND KICKED. CONOFF'S REPORT OF INITIAL INTERVIEW DOES NOT NOTE THAT GREEN UNCLASSIFIED

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MADE THIS COMPLAINT AT THAT TIME, NOR IS THERE ANY

OTHER INDICATION IN EMBASSY FILE THAT GREEN COMPLAINED OF MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST. NO ACTION APPEARS FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME.

4. EXTORTION BY ATTORNEYS: IN STARK MATERIAL, ITEM "ALLEGED EXTORTION BY LAWYERS" IS CHECKED, BUT NARRATIVE MATERIAL INDICATES THAT WHILE EXTORTION MAY HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED BY JORGE AVILES AND JULIO PLIEGO, NO MONEY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PAID TO THEM OR TO ANY ATTORNEY OTHER THAN HECTOR CASO, WHO HAD JUST TAKEN ON CASE. EMBASSY NOTE DATED MARCH 7, 1975, SAYS THAT GREEN TOLD CONOFF THAT AVILES HAD BEEN PAID \$2500. WILL TRY TO OBTAIN FACTS IN MATTER NEXT VISIT.

5. MISTREATMENT IN PRISON: EMBASSY FILE SHOWS THAT ON DECEMBER 3, 1974, GREEN COMPLAINED OF SEVERE BEATING IN FRONT OF "MAYOR" AND DORMITORY CAPTAIN (BOTH TRUESTEES), APPARENTLY BY OTHER PRISONERS, FOR FAILING TO HAVE JACKET ON AT PARTICULAR TIME. CONOFF NOTED ON INTERVIEW FORM ONLY THAT GREEN NEEDED EYE EXAM AND THAT HE HAD MENTIONED NEED TO PRISON DIRECTOR, EMBASSY RECORD FOR DECEMBER 27, 1974, NOTES THAT LT. COL. GIL CARDENAS, CHIEF OF SECURITY AT LECUMBERRI, ADVISED THAT GREEN AND THREE OTHER AMERICANS HAD BEEN PUT INTO PUNISHMENT DORMITORY AS RESULT OF SMALL QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA BEING FOUND IN CELL OF ONE OF THEM AFTER CHRISTMAS PARTY. CONOFF INTERVIEWED GREEN AND OTHERS DECEMBER 30. IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGA-TIONS THAT THEY HAD BEEN BEATEN AT TIME MARIJUANA FOUND. CONOFF REPORT INDICATES THAT HE COULD DETECT NO SIGNS OF BRUISES AND WAS TOLD THAT THE BRUISES HAD ALL DISAPPEARED BECAUSE BEATING HAD TAKEN PLACE FOUR DAYS EARLIER, CONOFF APPARENTLY BELIEVED NO ACTION POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF LACK OF SUBSTANTIATION. ON APRIL 23, 1975, GREEN ASKED CONOFF TO FIND OUT HOW LONG HE AND OTHERS WERE TO BE IN PUNISHMENT DORM. GIL CARDENAS TOLD CONOFF THEY WOULD BE RELEASED APRIL 28. AND GREEN WAS SO INFORMED. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, GREEN AND OTHERS WERE FOUND STILL IN PUNISHMENT DORM. UPON INQUIRY. CONOFF WAS TOLD BY GIL CARDENAS THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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"MISTAKEN" AND THAT PRISONERS WOULD BE RETURNED TO REGULAR QUARTERS MAY 28, WHICH THEY WERE.
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